

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 13075 091713Z

22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /030 W

----- 061430

R 091635Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8230

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 13075

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR

SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS CHIDES DOMESTIC PRESS IN

ADDRESS TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. LAST EVENING (DEC 8), THE FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION IN ATHENS CELEBRATED ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS LED THE PARADE OF PROMINENT GOG OFFICIALS, FOREIGN DIPLOMATS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE. AS THE HONORED GUEST, CARAMANLIS DELIVERED SOME SUCCINCT AFTER-DINNER REMARKS ON HIS VIEWS OF THE ROLE OF THE PRESS IN A DEMOCRACY.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER PRAISED THE MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION FOR THEIR "OBJECTIVE AND OFTEN COURAGEOUS INFORMING OF WORLD OPINION" DURING AND AFTER THE JUNTA, AND TOLD THEM THEY HAD ASSISTED IN THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY TO GREECE. HE THEN TURNED TO WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE "CRUCIAL ROLE" OF THE PRESS IN THE POLITICAL SECTOR, ESPECIALLY IN A DEMOCRACY. AND WHILE HIS TONE REMAINED LIGHT THROUGHOUT, IT SOON BECAME CLEAR THE REST OF HIS MESSAGE WAS DIRECTED AT THE NOTORIOUSLY IRRESPONSIBLE GREEK DOMESTIC JOURNALISTS.

3. CARAMANLIS SAID THAT TRUTH WAS A BASIC VIRTUE OF DEMOCRACY, AND THAT AN OBJECTIVE PRESS WAS ESSENTIAL SO THE PEOPLE COULD BE INFORMED IN MAKING THEIR DECISIONS.

NEVERTHELESS, TO BE OBJECTIVE THE PRESS MUST BE FREE;

THUS, HE CONTINUED, THE INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 13075 091713Z

PRESS AND DEMOCRACY IS "ABSOLUTE". HE NEXT QUOTED A

PROMINENT EXPERT ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS (SOME WONDERED IF THE EXPERT WERE NOT CARAMANLIS HIMSELF) AS SAYING "SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE PRESS FOR ME AND THAT WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF DEMOCRACY." THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED THE DIFFICULTY IN DETERMINING THE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN FREEDOM AND THE ABUSE OF FREEDOM, THE SECOND OF WHICH HE CLAIMED LEADS TO THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY. IN CONCLUSION HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR A "FREE", BUT ALSO A "SOUND", PRESS, DEFINING THE LATTER AS A PRESS WHICH ENLIGHTENS AND GUIDES THE PUBLIC WITHOUT PREJUDICE.
END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

4. COMMENT: IN PRIVATE PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS HAS ON OCCASION LET IT BE KNOWN THAT HE SEES THE IRRESPONSIBILITY OF THE GREEK PRESS AS ONE OF THE GREATEST THREATS TO HIS ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH A FUNCTIONING DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM IN GREECE THAT WILL ENDURE. HOWEVER, WHILE BEMOANING THIS IRRESPONSIBILITY, HE HAS AT THE SAME TIME STAUNCHLY DEFENDED THE NECESSITY OF THE PRESS AS AN INSTITUTION IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. THE DILEMMA, AS HE POINTS OUT, IS HOW TO FOSTER OBJECTIVITY IN THE FOURTH ESTATE, AN INSTITUTION WHICH IN GREECE HAS RARELY HAD AN OPPORTUNITY IN THE PAST TO PRACTICE IN AN OBJECTIVE MILIEU.
END CONFIDENTIAL.
KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: THE PRESS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS13075
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760455-1209
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761256/aaaabwbi.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CARAMANLIS CHIDES DOMESTIC PRESS IN ADDRESS TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, GR, (CARAMANLIS, CONSTANTINE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006